

CLAIMS

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1. Method for selecting a service or service provider in a shared network configuration which includes at least one terminal, at least one access network, and at least two alternatively selectable services or service providers

10 accessible via the access network, comprising the steps

the access network broadcasts, to the terminal, a shared network domain, SND, code which indicates that at least two services or service providers are accessible via the access network,

15 the broadcast SND code is changed only when there is a change in available services or service providers accessible via the access network,

the terminal checks whether SND code changes, and, when detecting that SND code has changed, checks whether the terminal contains or has access to information regarding available services or service providers associated to the changed SND code, and

20 the terminal or the access network or another network element selects an available service or service provider.

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2. Method according to claim 1, wherein

the terminal, when detecting that the SND code has changed from the previous code to a new code,

30 checks whether the new SND code is already known to it, and, if yes,

checks the services or service providers available in the present environment in which the new SND code is broadcast,

35 wherein the terminal executes these checks by accessing a memory storing a list of SND codes and associated services

or service providers.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein

when the terminal detects that the new SND code received
5 by the terminal is not known to the terminal, the terminal or
the access network or another network element detects
services or service providers associated to the new SND code
by receiving broadcast or dedicated downlink information
which indicates the services or service providers associated
10 to the new SND code.

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein the same SND
code is broadcast for one or several location areas, LAs.

15 5. Method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal
stores the SND code broadcast in the present access network
or location area of the terminal in a memory, and, when
changing from the present access network or location area to
a new access network or location area, compares the stored
20 SND code with the SND code broadcast in the new access
network or new location area.

6. Method according to claim 1, wherein the service
providers are operators.

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7. Method according to claim 1, wherein the services are
mobile services.

8. Method according to claim 1, wherein the access
30 network broadcasts, in addition to the SND code, an
information element indicating that the access network is a
shared radio access network which provides access to at least
two selectable services or service providers.

35 9. Method according to claim 8, wherein the terminal

checks whether or not the access network broadcasts the information element, and, when detecting that the access network broadcasts the information element, accesses its memory for finding the available selectable services or service providers.

10. System for selecting a service or service provider in a shared network configuration which includes at least one terminal, at least one access network, and at least two alternatively selectable services or service providers accessible via the access network, wherein

the access network is configured to broadcast, to the terminal, a shared network domain, SND, code which indicates that at least two services or service providers are accessible via the access network,

the access network is configured to change the broadcast SND code only when there is a change in available services or service providers accessible via the access network,

the terminal is configured to check whether the broadcast SND code changes, and, when detecting that the SND code has changed, to check whether the terminal contains or has access to information regarding available services or service providers associated to the SND code, and

the terminal or the access network or another network element is configured to select an available service or service provider.

11. System according to claim 10, wherein the terminal includes a memory storing a list of SND codes and associated services or service providers.

12. System according to claim 10, wherein the access network is configured to broadcast the same SND code for one or several location areas, LAs.

13. System according to claim 12, wherein the terminal is configured to store the SND code broadcast in the present access network or location area of the terminal in a memory, and, when changing from the present access network or location area to a new access network or location area, to compare the stored SND code with the SND code broadcast in the new access network or new location area.

14. System according to claim 10, wherein the service providers are operators.

15. System according to claim 10, wherein the services are mobile services.

16. System according to claim 10, wherein the access network is configured to broadcast, in addition to the SND code, an information element indicating that the access network is a shared radio access network which provides access to at least two selectable services or service providers.

17. System according to claim 16, wherein the terminal is configured to check whether or not the access network broadcasts the information element, and, when detecting that the access network broadcasts the information element, to access its memory for finding the available selectable services or service providers.

18. Terminal for use in a system for selecting a service or service provider in a shared network configuration which includes the terminal, at least one access network, and at least two alternatively selectable services or service providers accessible via the access network, wherein the terminal is configured to check whether an SND code broadcast by the access network changes, and when detecting

that the SND code has changed, to check whether the terminal contains or has access to information regarding available services or service providers associated to the changed SND code, and

5 the terminal is configured to select, when detecting that it contains or has access to information regarding available services or service providers associated to the changed SND code, an available service or service provider associated to the changed SND code.

10 19. Terminal according to claim 18, including a memory storing a list of SND codes and associated services or service providers.

15 20. Terminal according to claim 18, wherein the terminal is configured to store the SND code broadcast in the present access network or location area of the terminal in a memory, and, when changing from the present access network or location area to a new access network or location area, to
20 compare the stored SND code with the SND code broadcast in the new access network or new location area.

21. Terminal according to claim 18, wherein the terminal is configured to check whether or not the access network
25 broadcasts an information element indicating that the access network is a shared radio access network which provides access to at least two selectable services or service providers, and, when detecting that the access network broadcasts the information element, to access its memory for
30 finding the available selectable services or service providers.

22. Access network for use in a system for selecting a service or service provider in a shared network configuration
35 which includes at least one terminal, the access network, and

at least two alternatively selectable services or service providers accessible via the access network, wherein

the access network is configured to broadcast, to the terminal, a shared network domain, SND, code which indicates
5 that at least two services or service providers are accessible via the access network, and

the access network is configured to change the broadcast SND code only when there is a change in available services or service providers accessible via the access network.

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23. Access network according to claim 22, which is configured to select an available service or service provider.

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24. Network according to claim 22, wherein the access network is configured to broadcast the same SND code for one or several location areas, LAs.

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25. Network according to claim 22, wherein the access network is configured to broadcast, in addition to the SND code, an information element indicating that the access network is a shared radio access network which provides access to at least two selectable services or service providers.